



# My Way or the Highway: The Micromanagement Survival Guide

*Harry E. Chambers*

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By the author of the bestselling *Bad Attitude Survival Guide* (more than 40,000 copies sold), named one of the top business books of 1998 by *Executive Book Summaries*

Everyone thinks they know what micromanagement is, but this book presents a specific, detailed definition illustrated with concrete examples

Offers successful strategies for overcoming your own micromanaging behavior and for responding when you are being micromanaged

Micromanagement is one of the most widely condemned managerial sins, and one of the most common employee complaints. It results in significant direct, indirect, and hidden costs to organizations, contributing to low morale, high turnover, inefficiency, instability, and lack of continuity. And being perceived as a micromanager can have a significant negative impact on your career. But what, precisely, is micromanagement? More importantly, what can be done about it?

In *My Way or the Highway*, Harry Chambers proves that micromanagement can be objectively identified and successfully resisted, both by those who (often unknowingly) inflict it and by those who are its victims. In an informal, entertaining style Chambers describes five specific defining traits of micromanagers: placing their own self interest above everything else; controlling and manipulating time; attempting to determine exactly how everything must be done; requiring elaborate approval processes; and establishing dysfunctional monitoring and reporting requirements. He even provides a Micromanagement Potential Indicator test so you can see whether (and to what extent) you might be a micromanager. He then devotes a chapter to each trait, providing real-world examples of the trait in action and an analysis of the damage it does.

But this is not just a book of diagnosis—Chambers provides treatment as well. He devotes several chapters how to respond if you are the micromanagee (a victim of micromanagement), how to eliminate your own micromanaging behaviors, and what to do if you have to manage a micromanager.

Avoiding micromanagement should be a major goal of every manager, would-be manager, team member, or collaborative peer. *My Way or the Highway* offers detailed, actionable, field-tested strategies that will eliminate the damage that overcontrolling behavior causes and increase creativity, risk-taking, productivity, and initiative in any organization.

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